



Be Informed: What Would You Do?

Objectives:

- To familiarize students with different types of emergencies that they may encounter
- To inform students about appropriate responses to these emergency situations

Activity: Emergency Role Play Scenarios

Divide your class into groups of two or three students. Give each group one of the following emergency scenarios and ask them to act out a brief scene depicting the safest way to respond to each situation. Following each group's scene, discuss their actions with the class. Did they respond in the safest way possible? What else could they have done? If time allows, ask students to act out the scene a second time, correcting any missteps they may have had during the first scene.

Flash Flood – You and your parent are driving home from school in a heavy rain. You see that the road ahead of you is covered in water. What do you do?

Correct Response: Do not drive through the water. It only takes two feet of water to lift a vehicle, and it is very difficult to gauge how deep swiftly moving water is from behind the wheel of your car. Do not walk through the water, either, as it takes only six inches of swiftly moving water to knock a person off his/her feet. Turn around and find another route to your destination.

House Fire – A smoke alarm wakes you in the middle of the night. What do you do?

Correct Response: Shout, "Fire!" to alert the rest of your family. If your door is closed, use the back of your hand to test it for heat. If it is cool, escape through that door. If it is hot, escape through a window. Stay low as you make your way toward the exit to minimize your exposure to smoke. Close doors behind you to slow the spread of the fire. Once you are out of the house, stay outside and call 911.

Hurricane – The news reports that there is a major storm coming toward your town. What do you do?

Correct Response: Stay tuned to local media and your NOAA weather radio for updated reports and instructions. If an evacuation is ordered, follow local authorities' instructions and leave the area. Take your Ready kit with you.

Flood – It's been raining for several days and you can see that the creek near your house is rising. What do you do?

Correct Response: Stay out of the water. Flood water can be contaminated and or electrified, and swiftly moving water is extremely dangerous. Move to higher ground. If your family isn't together, reconnect at your out-of-neighborhood meeting place.

Thunderstorms and Lightning – You're enjoying an afternoon at the park with your friends, when dark clouds develop and you hear thunder. What do you do?

Correct Response: Move indoors as soon as possible. Do not take shelter under a tree or a metal picnic shelter/shed. If you can't get indoors, move to a low-lying area. Crouch down on the balls of your feet to make yourself as small as possible and to minimize contact with the ground.

Tornado – A tornado warning has been issued for your area. What do you do?

Correct Response: First, remember that a tornado warning means that a tornado has been spotted in your area and you need to take shelter immediately. Go to the place in your house that your family has identified as its "safe place." Ideally, this should be a basement or storm shelter. If underground shelter is not available, go into an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible. Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. Go to the center of the room. Stay away from corners because they attract debris.

Ice storm – Freezing rain and ice has knocked out the electricity to your house. What do you do?

Correct Response: Get the flashlight and battery-powered radio out of your Ready kit. Gather blankets and warm clothes. Stay inside as much as possible. When using alternate sources for electricity, heating or cooking, be cautious and avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire. Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement or any partially enclosed area. Keep kerosene heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials, and refuel the heater outdoors to avoid build-up of toxic fumes.